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Senate committee hears testimony on legislation to provide funding options for recycling

LANSING – Legislation to give local municipalities more options for funding recycling programs went before the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee Tuesday, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, the bill's sponsor.

“This legislation would allow a community to implement and pay for a more comprehensive recycling program that better suits their needs, said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “Communities deserve the opportunity to tailor recycling programs to their unique needs and determine – at the local level – how best to fund those programs.”

Trudy Galla, planning director for Leelanau County Planning and Community Development, testified in favor of the bill.

“This proposal would provide a voter-endorsed, ‘flat fee’ that would be evenly distributed throughout the county and would adequately cover the costs of our program,” Galla said. “The Leelanau County Solid Waste Council supports Senate Bill 79 as a much fairer way to charge for the services of a recycling and solid waste management program, and a means for voters to approve or deny such funding.”

The committee is expected to vote on the measure next week.

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Editors' note: A downloadable photo of Sen. McManus and Trudy Galla is available on the Senate Majority Photowire at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/McManus/McManus.htm>.